

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JEC PA 24159 132134Z

63

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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TRSE-00 DRC-01 ( ADP ) W  
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FM USDEL JEC PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 134

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L USDEL JEC PARIS 24159

E.O. 11652: GDS, DECON 9/13/74

TAGS: VS, PINT

SUBJECT: GVN-PRG BILATERALS: 25TH PLENARY SESSION, SEPTEMBER 13, 1973

1. SUMMARY: DURING THE BRIEF SESSION THERE WAS NO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF SVN INTERNAL POLITICAL QUESTIONS. INSTEAD, THE PRESENTATIONS OF EACH SIDE CONSISTED ALMOST ENTIRELY OF COMPLAINTS OF TRUCE VIOLATIONS COMMITTED BY THE OTHER. VIEN REITERATED GVN PROTESTS AGAINST AIRFIELD CONSTRUCTION, EMPLACEMENT OF WAR MATERIEL, AND THE CALL OF A PRC VESSEL AT DONG HA. HIEU (PRG) ACCUSED THE GVN OF VARIOUS FORMS OF ALL-OUT WARFARE, BRAGGED OF PRG ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT THE ALGIERS NAC, AND DWELT ONLY BRIEFLY ON DEMANDS THE GVN RELEASE DETAINEES AND ASSURE DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS. BOTH HIEU AND PRESS SPOKESMAN SAU TRIED TO TURN ASIDE THE CHARGES CONCERNING AIRFIELD CONSTRUCTION BY EMPHASIZING THAT THE PRG WAS UNDERTAKING ACTIVITIES FOR ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT IN ITS ZONES. IT WAS AGREED TO RECONVENE SEPT 20. END SUMMARY.

2. DEPUTY PRIMIN VIEN DELIVERED A STRONG PROTEST AGAINST DRV CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLY ACTIVITIES AT  
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PAGE 02 JEC PA 24159 132134Z

TWELVE SVN AIRFIELDS. HE ALSO PROTESTED THE CALL OF

THE PRG SHIP "RED FLAG" AT DONG HA AS A DEROGATION OF RVN SOVEREIGNTY OVER SVN, BESTOWED EXCLUSIVELY UPON THE GVN BY THE GENEVA ACCORD OF 1954, AND A VIOLATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. AFTER CONDEMNING PRG HARASSMENT OF THE ICCS AND ATTEMPTS TO REDUCE ICCS NUMBERS AND DEPLOYMENT, VIEN PROPOSED IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION OF DISCUSSIONS UNTIL SEPT 20.

3. PRG "MINISTER OF STATE" HIEN LEVIED A SERIES OF NON-SPECIFIC CHARGES AGAINST GHE GVN, THEN HELD FORTH AT LENGTH ON PRESTIGE THE PRG HAD ALLEGEDLY OBTAINED AT THE ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. THE CONFERENCE'S RESOLUTION ON VN WAS "A SOURCE OF PRIDE AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR ALL VIETNAMESE."

4. HIEU NEXT PRESENTED A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE GVN. HE CLAIMED THAT THE GVN HAD COMMITTED 67,000 CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS SINCE SIGNATURE OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE, DURING WHICH 6000 CIVILIANS WERE KILLED OR WOUNDED, 28,000 WERE ARRESTED, ETC. ON SEPT 5 VNAF HAD DROPPED MORE THAN 200 BOMBS IN BINH DINH, HIEU ALLEGED, WHILE USE OF TOXIC CHEMICALS HAD GREATLY INCREASED OF LATE. THUS ON AUG 22 VNAF HAD FROPPED SUCH CHEMICALS ON TWO LOCATIONS IN BINT LONG, WHILE ON AUG 25 DEFOLIANTS HAD BEEN USED AGAINST MORE THAN 300 HECTARES AT LOC TAN. DURING A BRIEF REPETITION OF DEMANDS FOR RELEASE OF DETAINEES AND GUARANTEED EXERCISE OF DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS HIEU CHARGED THAT GHE GVN HAD INOCULATED POLITICAL PRISONERS WITH "SUBSTANCES BRINGING ON MADNESS" SO AS TO INCARCERATE THEM AT BIEN HOA PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL RATHER THAN LIBERATING THEM.

5. IN CLOSING, HIEU MAINTAINED THAT THE PRG WAS UNDERTAKING "MEASURES TO STABILIZE AND IMPROVE THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE POPULATION." AS SUCH THE PRG WAS RECEIVING "ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL AID FROM NUMEROUS COUNTRIES TO RESTORE AND DEVELOP THE ECONOMY OF THE LIBERATED AREAS." THIS, HE ALLEGED, WAS FULLY IN ACCORD WITH PRG GOVERNMENTAL COMPETENCE AND THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 JEC PA 24159 132134Z

PARIS AGREEMENT.

6. THERE WAS NO ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION. THE TWO SIDES AGREED TO MEET AGAIN SEPT 20.

7. PRG SPOKESMAN SAU CONDUCTED A POST-SESSION PRESS CONFERENCE; THE GVN HELD NONE. HE REBUTTED GVN ACCUSATIONS CONCERNING AIRFIELD CONSTRUCTION AS

"CALUMNIES" SEEKING TO DISGUISE US PLANS TO INTRODUCE VAST QUANTITIES OF WAR MATERIEL INTO SVN. HE TRIED TO BELITTLE THE GVN CHARGES AS ILLOGICAL, IN THAT THE GVN COULD NOT BOTH DENY THE LEGITIMACY AND EXISTENCE OF PRG ZONES AND AT THE SAME TIME MAKE ACCUSATIONS THAT AIRFIELD CONSTRUCTION HAD TAKEN PLACE IN THESE ZONES. REITERATING HIEU'S REMARKS ABOUT PRG ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS, SAU SAID THAT THEY WERE "THE ANSWER TO SAIGON'S CALUMNIES."

8. SAU EXPANDED UPON HIEU'S ALLEGATIONS ABOUT GVN USE OF TOXIC CHEMICALS AND GASES BY CLAIMING THAT US-SUPPLIED DEFOLIANTS HAD BEEN USED AGAINST TAN PHU TRUNG VILLAGE AND CU CHI. HE PARROTED HIEU'S GLOATING OVER THE ALGIERS NAC RESULTS, ADDING THAT 38 COUNTRIES HAD RECOGNIZED THE PRG AS OF TODAY AND MORE WOULD DO SO "IN COMING WEEKS." SAU GAVE NO PRECISE RESPONSES WHEN THE PRESS ASKED FLATLY WHETHER OR NOT THE DRV OR PRG HAD CONSTRUCTED/IMPROVED AIRFIELDS. HE DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT THE DRV HAD "BUILT NOTHING IN SVN, NATURALLY, BECAUSE THE ZONES ARE UNDER THE SOLE COMPETENCE OF THE PRG."  
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